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ABSTRACT

This book, directed especially to individuals over age 30, takes a how-to approach to earning a college degree in the least amount of time for the least amount of money. The book explains how to use fast-track methods such as "testing out," which takes advantage of prior learning, and accredited shortcuts to earn an accelerated degree. The first chapters of the book set out some basics, such as custom designing a degree, assessing academic readiness, understanding learning preferences, setting timelines and budgets, selecting the right college and the best educational options, and accredited shortcuts. One chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the advantages of testing out. The remaining chapters cover the many academic and vocational tests that can be used toward college credit, and list the universities, institutes, and associations that offer tests that may be accepted for college credit. Appendixes provide supplementary information including: a comparison of the content of four prior-learning tests; a list of colleges that work with nontraditional adult students; a mini-quiz to assess academic preparation; and a checklist to be used in selecting a college. Also listed are testing system and accrediting agency addresses. A glossary defines terms used in the book. (CH)

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